

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A surgical method for manipulating a graft vessel relative to a target vessel, comprising:

making a substantially longitudinal incision in a wall of the graft vessel at an end thereof to

form a flap therein;

providing a staple holder having spaced-apart arms, a graft affixer projecting therefrom, and a

plurality of discrete connectors held by said staple holder, each said arm independently

holding at least one said discrete connector;

placing a portion of the graft vessel between said spaced-apart arms; ~~and~~

engaging the graft vessel with said graft affixer;

placing the flap against an outer surface of the target vessel; and

affixing the end of the graft vessel to the target vessel.

2. (original) The surgical method of claim 1, further comprising pushing the graft vessel down onto said graft affixer.

3. (original) The surgical method of claim 1, wherein said engaging is performed at the heel of the graft vessel.

4. (canceled)

5. (original) The surgical method of claim 1, wherein said engaging includes penetrating a wall of the graft vessel at least partially with said graft affixer.

6. (original) The surgical method of claim 1, wherein said engaging includes hooking a wall of the graft vessel with said graft affixer.

7. (original) The surgical method of claim 1, wherein said engaging includes clipping a portion of the graft vessel with said graft affixer.

8. (original) The surgical method of claim 1, wherein said staple holder includes a measurement feature having two spaced-apart ends; further comprising angling the graft vessel relative to the staple holder until one side of the graft vessel is positioned substantially at one end of said measurement

feature and the other side of the graft vessel is positioned substantially at the other end of said measurement feature.

9. (original) The surgical method of claim 1, wherein said staple holder includes a measurement feature having two spaced-apart and substantially unconnected indicia; further comprising angling the graft vessel relative to the staple holder until one side of the graft vessel is positioned substantially at one said indicia and the other side of the graft vessel is positioned substantially at the other said indicia.

10. (currently amended) The surgical method of claim 1, wherein said staple holder includes at least one spike extending therefrom, said spike separate from said graft affixer, further comprising engaging the flap with at least one said spike.

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) The surgical method of ~~claim 11~~ claim 1, wherein said affixing is performed by ejecting said plurality of discrete connectors from said arms, through the flap of the graft vessel and then into a wall of the target vessel.

13. (previously presented) The surgical method of claim 1, wherein said connectors are staples.

14-29. (canceled)

30. (previously presented) The surgical method of claim 1, further comprising making at least one more substantially longitudinal incision in a wall of the graft vessel at an end thereof to form a plurality of flaps therein.

31. (previously presented) The surgical method of claim 1, wherein placing and said engaging are performed while said arms are fixed relative to one another.

32. (currently amended) The surgical method of ~~claim 11~~ claim 1, wherein said graft affixer remains connected to said staple holder after said affixing.

33. (currently amended) The surgical method of ~~claim 11~~ claim 1, wherein said graft affixer is detachable from said staple holder.

34. (new) The surgical method of claim 1, wherein said making comprises making a substantially longitudinal incision substantially one centimeter long.